



## Arlington Recycling Committee Minutes

January 11, 2018 7:30 - 9:00pm - Jefferson Cutter House

### Attendees:

**Members:** Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Dori Mazor, Ellen Callaway, Priya Sankalia

**Associate Members:** Rich Piazza

**Volunteers:** Julie Benyo

**Welcome and Introductions:** No new attendees, so, introductions were not necessary

**Approval of December Minutes:** December meeting minutes were approved as written.

**Changes to Agenda:** Paul suggested some changes to the agenda - we would not be discussing Greenworks instead there would be an update on EcoFest. Additionally since Charlotte wasn't present there would be no Recycling Coordinator's Report

**EcoFest:** Paul opened the discussion on EcoFest which is on March 24th at Town Hall. Larry gave a brief description on what the event is like. It is a Sustainable Arlington-focused family event with a focus on tabling by environmental and related organizations in Arlington. It gets a pretty robust attendance and runs for 3-4 hours in the afternoon. The main promotion is the big sign outside Town Hall.

It was agreed that ARC should have a table at the event. We could:

- Answer questions about the bag ban that launches March 1 at Large retailers
- Have Ellen's display up to initiate questions about recycling
- There is a Town-wide litter clean up in April that has been planned - we could promote that
- Kids activities (more than just the stickers and tattoos.) Larry mentioned that Karen developed a kids' quiz for the EcoFest two years ago with prizes.

**Textile Initiative:** Dori updated the committee on plans on a textile initiative. There was a discussion on how we can get information out to people - print, community newsletters etc. Priya will put up a Google Drive sheet for a common place to share ideas for the campaign. Dori and Priya will set up a meeting with Charlotte to get her ideas on textile recycling. A central idea is that textiles that are in ANY condition are recyclable, and should be separated from regular trash. This prompted some discussion about how ARC's role is separate from the Recycling Coordinator's role. Rich asked if the campaign involved ARC organizing textile drives (like they have at Belmont Day School). It was decided that initially ARC would provide information to people on why it was important to recycle textiles and where you could do it. Ellen also wanted to be

part of the campaign and will work with Dori and Priya. Larry suggested that ARC should sponsor pick-up locations around Town.

**Council on Aging Event:** Paul gave the committee an update on his communication with a representative at the Council. He has had email exchanges with her and she said they would be interested. Julie suggested that the event be held on Podiatry Day at the Senior Center which is popular. Providing food would be an attraction.

**Updates:**

*Food Scrap Initiative* - there will be 3 events in January to educate people on this initiative. Larry informed the committee on the locations (3 locations - DPW, Ed Burns Arena parking lot (potentially) and Waldo Park); there will be a container in place; most likely the contract will be with Black Earth, and it will be a year-round program. There was further discussion on what other communities were doing: Boston has a community drop off (Oscar Program) in some neighborhoods; Cambridge is expanding their curbside collection pilot to a citywide curbside pickup. The organic waste is processed in a facility in Charlestown, MA. If people are interested in matters related to waste (Nationally) they should subscribe to the "Waste Dive" newsletter.

*Food Link Joint Event* - Paul gave the committee an update - the Robbins Library community room has been booked for Tuesday, March 6 - 7-9pm. The planned outline is to show a brief video - Paul has picked one short (3 minute) animated video which is upbeat and succinct. The topic is Food Wastage Footprint. Larry will be the moderator and the Panel will be Charlotte, DeAnne Dupont (Food Link), Jeremy Marin (composting guru). They will speak for 6-8 minutes each. Kelsey Juntwait (Food Link's Outreach Coordinator) will promote the event. There will be discussion, some handouts and snacks provided by Food Link. Paul suggested the Unitarian Church can be approached for promoting the event. Larry said he would reach out to his contact in the Church, where they have a Green Sanctuary Committee.

*Miscellaneous Discussion:* Priya brought up the idea of training neighborhood volunteers as ombudspersons for recycling. They can go into their neighbors houses and do a recycling/garbage audit. Julie suggested doing it on a tupperware party model. We could plan a pilot program and see how it goes.

Submitted by: Priya Sankalia